

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

Division of Environmental Health Services:

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- 8575 Haven Avenue, Suite 130 – Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-9105 – (909) 948-5058
- 13911 Park Avenue, Suite 200 – Victorville, CA 92392 – (760) 243-3773
- San Bernardino County Vector Control Program
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Positive Hantavirus Results from Surveys Conducted in the City of Fontana and the Unincorporated Area of Devore

On April 27, 2010, the Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services, Mosquito and Vector Control Program received confirmation that blood samples from mice in the areas of Coyote Canyon in Fontana and the unincorporated area of Devore (just South of I-15) were positive for Hantavirus. Surveys in these areas are routinely conducted and are increased when there is added risk to public health and safety.

Hantavirus is transmitted by infected rodents through urine, droppings or saliva. Individuals become infected after inhaling, ingesting, and/or handling urine, droppings, saliva, or nesting materials. Transmission may also occur when these materials come in direct contact with broken skin, nose, or mouth.

Although a positive case of Hantavirus in mice warrants immediate action by the Mosquito and Vector Control Program, it is not considered an emergency. Proper safeguards have been taken and a plan of action has been developed to address this issue. Dr. Wekesa, Vector Ecologist at Mosquito and Vector Control Program recommends residents and visitors take precautions to protect themselves and their families in the affected areas by:

- Avoiding contact with rodents. Do not pick up or handle rodents of any kind.
- Eliminating harborage, water sources, and food sources for mice and rats around the home.

The early symptoms of Hantavirus are flu-like. Other symptoms may include dry cough, fatigue, headache, nausea, vomiting, and rapid shallow breathing.

For additional information on Hantavirus, contact the San Bernardino County, Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Services, Mosquito and Vector Control Program at (909) 388-4600 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs.

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